

### **Current Affairs :- Feb 28 – Mar 05, 2018**

- National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 28 February. The theme of NSD-2018 is “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”. NSD is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of the ‘Raman Effect’, which led to Sir C.V. Raman winning the Noble Prize.
- The Chilika lake in Odisha has emerged as the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world with the spotting of 155 such animals. Chilika Lake is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world.
- Retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals above Rs 10 lakh, taking another step towards becoming a paperless organisation. EPFO has recently reduced the interest rate on deposits to 8.55% from 8.65%.
- The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Village Degaon, District Satara was inaugurated by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries.
- IndusInd Bank announced its partnership with Ripple (the enterprise blockchain solution for Global Payments) to facilitate payments into and out of India. IndusInd Bank plans to harness the power of Blockchain technology for facilitating global payments.
- Women and Child Development Ministry has approved projects worth over Rs.2,900 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities to make them safer for women. These cities are Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow.
- Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). NFRA will act as an independent regulator for the auditing profession.
- The Karnataka government inaugurated the first phase of a 2,000 megawatts (MW) solar park in the drought-prone district, Tumkur. The first phase of the Rs.16,500 crore park called “Shakti Sthala” will generate 600MW, while the balance 1,400MW is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2018. The solar project is the largest in the world.
- Indian companies can now participate in construction and installation works in the “non-critical” category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh, according to the Russian atomic energy agency Rosatom. The Rooppur project is the first initiative under an Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries.
- Navjot Kaur has clinched the 1st gold medal for India in the Asian Wrestling championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She defeated Imai Miyu of Japan in the final of women’s 65 kg freestyle.
- The 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey tournament begins in the Malaysian city of Ipoh. Six nations – India, hosts Malaysia, defending champions England, Australia, Argentina and Ireland – are taking part in the tournament.
- The Odisha government has launched a programme Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development) to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities.
- National People's Party (NPP) President Conrad Sangma will be the new chief minister of Meghalaya.

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled a healthcare scheme named 'Arogya Karnataka' (Healthy Karnataka) aimed at benefitting about 1.43 crore households in the state. It will provide quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to both below-poverty-line (BPL) and above-poverty-line (APL) families in the state.
- The Odisha government launched KHUSHI scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state. The scheme will be implemented at a cost of 70 crore per year. Under the scheme, the state will provide free sanitary napkins to 17 lakh girls studying in Classes 6 to 12 in government and government-aided schools.
- The government of India has signed an MoU with Israel to enhance cooperation on 'National Campaign for Water Conservation in India'.
- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to do away with the per borrower loan limits to Micro/Small and Medium Enterprises (Services) for classification under priority sector lending. So far, loans to Micro/Small and Medium Enterprises (Services) up to Rs.5 crore and Rs.10 crore, respectively, were classified as priority sector lending (PSL). Now all bank loans to MSMEs engaged in providing or rendering services as defined in terms of investment in equipment under the MSMED Act, 2006, will qualify under priority sector without any credit cap.
- A Steering Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Finance under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) to consider various issues relating to the development of Fintech space in India.
- World rapid champion Viswanathan Anand annexed the Tal Memorial rapid chess title in Moscow, Russia after an easy final round draw against Boris Gelfand of Israel.
- India won the inaugural IBSF (International Billiards & Snooker Federation) Snooker Team World Cup in Doha, Qatar. India beat Pakistan in the best-of-five final.
- The leg-spinner from Afghanistan, Rashid Khan (19-year-old) has become the youngest captain in international cricket history. He now holds the ICC No.1 rank for bowlers in both the ODIs and T20Is and also became the youngest player ever to hold the top spot for any form of ICC men's ranking.
- World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated across the world on 3 March. It is celebrated to raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The theme for WWD 2018 is "Big cats: predators under threat".
- Tennis legend Roger Federer became the most decorated winner in the history of Laureus World Sports Awards after he won twin honours at the 18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco. It was his sixth award. Serena Williams is now the most decorated female Laureus Award winner with five Laureus statuettes.